

COMPANIES USING PERFINS – RALLI BROTHERS

By Dave Hill

This history is taken from an obituary in the Daily Telegraph for Lucas Ralli who died on 10 December 2003, aged 83.

The family is thought to be able to trace it's ancestry back to a Norman Knight who was sent to Constantinople by a French Duke in 1081. In the 15th century the family moved to the Aegean island of Chios. Turkish persecution forced them to migrate in 1822. Ralli Bros., merchants, was established in London and Odessa importing grain and textiles and exporting cotton piece goods from Lancashire, back to the Levant. They expanded into banking and trading throughout British India and the Far East.

In 1961 Ralli Bros was taken over and later sold to Slater Walker. Ralli Bros used perfin R03-30.02 - R.B. - from 1870 to 1918 on GB stamps. I have seen similar perfins on India stamps; do other countries have Ralli Bros perfins?

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